

Introductory Stories for Reproduction 1

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Introduction

In this series of practice books, Dr. Hill uses four levels, his introductory (750-headword), elementary (1,000-headword), intermediate (1,500-headword) and advanced (2,075-headword) levels. This book is at the 750-headword level.

There are 40 stories, each about 125 words long, which can be used for oral or written reproduction work. The vocabulary is given in the Appendix to this book. Here are some ways in which these stories can be used:

(i) Listening and Speaking

The teacher plays the cassette recording, or reads aloud one of the stories two or three times. The students have to answer questions about it and/or retell the story orally.

(ii) Listening and Writing

The teacher plays the cassette recording, or reads aloud one of the stories two or three times. The students have to answer questions about it and/or retell the story in writing.

(iii) Reading and Writing

Each student reads one of the stories for a certain number of minutes, then shuts the book and writes down as much of the story as he remembers, or answers questions about it in writing. The questions can be written on the blackboard or dictated by the teacher.

With (i), (ii) and (iii), there can be an interval of time - even of several days - between the telling or reading of the story and the reproduction.

(iii) can be done by students who have not got a teacher. They can read, close their books, and then write down as much of the story as they can remember. When they have finished, they can open their books again and check what they have written by referring to the story in the book.

The grammatical structures used in this book are also strictly limited. For example, no passives, relative clauses or reported speech are used, and the tenses are limited to the present simple, the present continuous, the present perfect, the going to future and the past simple.

Other books by Dr. L. A. Hill are:

Stories for Reproduction, First series (4 levels)

Stories for Reproduction, Second series (4 levels)

Steps to Understanding (4 levels)

Anecdotes in American English (4 levels)

Word Power (3 levels)

Comprehension Topics (2 levels)

Writing for a Purpose



1

Mr. and Mrs. Peters went to Brighton for a holiday last summer. Brighton is a town by the sea in England. Mr. Peters likes fishing very much, and on the first day he said to his wife, 'I'm going to go out fishing on the sea. Are you going to come with me?'

'No,' his wife answered. 'It's cold and windy today.'

Mr. Peters went out in a boat alone and fished for several hours. But he caught nothing—except an advertisement on a piece of plastic for a fish-shop in the town.

He went back to the hotel and gave it to his wife.

'How did you catch that?' she asked him.

'A diver put it on my hook,' Mr. Peters answered.

1. Does Mr. Peters like fishing?
2. Did he go fishing on the first day of his holiday?
3. Did Mrs. Peters go with him?
4. Why?
5. What did Mr. Peters catch?
6. Did he throw it back into the sea?
7. What did his wife ask him?
8. And what did Mr. Peters answer?

Words not in the 750: advertisement, diver, plastic



2

Sam left school last June. 'You don't like work very much, Sam,' his friend Paul said. 'What are you going to do now?'

'I'm going to study music,' Sam answered. 'I'm going to go to a music college.'

Sam went to the music college, but he did not study much. He played games and went to dances and enjoyed everything. But he never had much money.

Then he had some holidays. He went home and saw his friend Paul again. Paul said, 'How are you getting on, Sam?'

'Quite well,' was Sam's answer, 'but my father isn't very nice. I wrote to him and asked him for £500 for a new violin, but he didn't send me the money. He sent me a violin.'

1. What did Paul say to Sam last June?
2. And what did Sam answer?
3. Did he go to a music college?
4. Did he study much there?
5. What did he do at the college?
6. Did he have much money?
7. What did Paul say to him during his holidays?
8. And what did Sam answer?

Word not in the 750: violin

3



An old woman lived alone in her house, because her husband was dead. She fell down the stairs and hurt her left leg very badly. She telephoned her sister, and her sister came to her house and took her to the doctor in her car.

The doctor cleaned the leg and then he bandaged it. After that, he said to the old woman, 'Now, Mrs. Grace, this leg's going to be bad for a long time. Don't run up and down the stairs in your house for a few weeks.'

Mrs. Grace visited the doctor every week for about a month, and then he said, 'Your leg's quite well again, Mrs. Grace.'

'That's very good,' said the old woman happily. 'I hated climbing up and down that drainpipe to my bedroom every day.'

1. Did Mrs. Grace live with her husband in her house?
2. Why?
3. How did she hurt her leg?
4. Did she drive herself to the hospital?
5. What did the doctor say to her?
6. Did Mrs. Grace visit him every week after that?
7. What did he say after a month?
8. And what did Mrs. Grace answer?

Words not in the 750: bandage (v.), drainpipe

4



Jean and Mark were twins. They were ten years old, and they were in the same class at their school. A few weeks ago, their English teacher said to the children, 'I haven't given you any homework for two weeks, children. Now this week, write a composition about "Our cat", and give it to me next Monday. Have you all got a cat at home?'

'Yes, Miss Jones,' all of them answered.

All the pupils did the composition, and they gave it to the teacher on Monday. The teacher read all the compositions and then she gave them back to the pupils on Tuesday.

'Jean,' she said, 'your composition is the same as your brother's.'

'Yes,' answered Jean quickly. 'It's the same cat!'

1. Was Jean older than Mark?
2. What did their English teacher say a week ago?
3. Did all the pupils have cats?
4. What did the pupils do then?
5. Did the teacher read all the compositions?
6. When did she give them back to the pupils?
7. What did the teacher say to Jean on Tuesday?
8. And what did Jean answer?

Words not in the 750: composition, twin



5

Many years ago, Wonder Air was a small, very new company. It had very little money and its aeroplanes were very old. Mr. Black flew by Wonder Air once. That day, he went to the airport, got on the Wonder Air aeroplane and waited.

After a few minutes, there was a lot of noise, and then the captain came out and shouted, 'I'm not going to take this aeroplane up! One of the engines is broken, and they aren't going to get a new one.'

The passengers got out, and then, an hour later, an air-hostess said, 'The aeroplane's ready again now.' The passengers walked past her to the aeroplane again.

'Did you get a new engine?' Mr. Black asked the air-hostess.

'No, we got a new captain,' she answered.

1. Were Wonder Air's aeroplanes new, or old?
2. Where did Mr. Black wait?
3. What did the captain of the aeroplane shout?
4. Did the passengers stay on the aeroplane after **that**?
5. Did they get out?
6. What did the air-hostess say an hour later?
7. Did they get a new engine?
8. What did they get?

Words not in the 750: company, noise, ready, wonder



6

Mr. Kent is sixty-five, and his wife is sixty-one. Mr. Kent is small and thin, and his wife is big and tall. She is not a happy person. She always criticizes everybody and everything, and she criticizes her husband more than anyone else. She always says to her neighbours, 'He never does anything right.'

Last month she said to her husband, 'Look at your shirt! There are two holes in the collar! I'm going to buy you some new shirts.' She went to the shops that afternoon and bought him three new shirts.

The next morning, Mr. Kent put one of them on and went down to the kitchen. Mrs. Kent looked at him and then shouted angrily, 'And what's wrong with the other two shirts? Don't you like them?'

1. Is Mrs. Kent tall, or small?
2. Is she happy?
3. What does she always say to her neighbours about her husband?
4. What did she say to her husband last month?
5. What did she do then?
6. Did Mr. Kent put one of the new shirts on the next morning?
7. What did his wife shout at him?
8. Do people put three shirts on at the same time?

Word not in the 750: criticize



7

Norman Harris worked in an office for twenty years, but then he lost his job, because he began doing everything wrong. His wife sent him to a doctor, and the doctor asked him a lot of questions for an hour and then said to him, 'Mr. Harris, there are two different people in you, and they're fighting each other. I'm going to send you to a hospital for a week, and I'm going to examine you again after that.'

The doctor gave him a bill for £20. Norman took £10 out of his pocket and gave it to the doctor. Then he said to him, 'Get the other half from the other man. I'm not going to pay for him too!'

1. Did Norman work in the same office for a long time?
2. Why did he lose his job?
3. Did his wife send him to the doctor?
4. What did the doctor say to him?
5. What did he give Norman after that?
6. Did Norman give the doctor any money?
7. How much did he give him?
8. And what did Norman say?

Words not in the TSO: bill, examine, job



8

John was ten years old, and he was a clever boy. Most of the pupils in his class at school were not very good at mathematics, but John usually answered the teacher's questions very well.

Last Tuesday the teacher said to the class, 'Now I'm going to give you a mathematics test. I'm going to give you a question and say a name, and that boy or girl's going to answer. Now, there's £5.73 in your left pocket, and £3.27 in your right pocket. What have you got? Peter? Mary? Helen?'

None of the pupils said anything for a long time. Then the teacher said, 'What's the answer, John?'

John answered quickly, 'Somebody else's trousers!'

1. Were most of the pupils in John's class good at mathematics?
2. Did John usually give good, or bad answers?
3. What was the teacher's first question?
4. Did the teacher ask several pupils then?
5. What did the pupils answer?
6. Who did the teacher ask then?
7. And what did John answer?
8. Did the teacher want that answer?

Word not in the TSO: test

9



Mr. Green went to Germany, because he had some work there. He came back last Monday, and his young wife met him at the airport. They walked to their car and passed a tall, pretty air-hostess. Mr. Green said to her, 'Goodbye, Miss Harris,' and the air-hostess smiled and said, 'Goodbye' too.

Mrs. Green stopped and looked at the air-hostess. Then she said to her husband, 'How did you know her name?'

'That was easy,' answered Mr. Green. 'The names of the captain and all the crew were on a piece of paper in front of our seats.'

'What was the name of the captain?' Mrs. Green asked with a smile.

Mr. Green laughed and answered, 'I don't remember any of the other names.'

1. Did Mr. Green go to France, or to Germany?
2. Did anyone meet him at the airport in England?
3. What did he say to the air-hostess?
4. Did the air-hostess answer?
5. What did Mr. Green's wife ask then?
6. What was Mr. Green's answer?
7. What did his wife ask then?
8. Did Mr. Green remember any of the other names?

Words not in the 750: crew, know, remember

10



Mike was not well. He was tired all the time, and his head often hurt.

'Go to the doctor,' his wife said.

Mike did not like visiting the doctor, but after a week, he went. The doctor asked him a lot of questions and wrote Mike's answers down.

'What do you eat in the morning?' he asked him.

'Eggs, bread, butter, jam and coffee,' Mike answered.

'And what lunch do you have?' the doctor asked.

'Meat or fish and bread.'

'And what do you have in the evening?' the doctor asked.

'Eggs and bread.'

Then the doctor said, 'Eat some fruit every day, and eat all the skin of the fruit. The skin is very good. What fruit do you like best?'

Mike was not happy. 'Coconuts,' he answered.

1. Why did Mike go to the doctor?
2. Did he like going to him?
3. Did the doctor ask him any questions?
4. Did Mike eat bread at every meal?
5. Did he eat any fruit?
6. What did he eat in the evening?
7. What did the doctor say then?
8. And what did Mike answer?

Words not in the 750: coconut, fruit, skin



11

Mr. Lloyd went to the barber every month to have a haircut. He sometimes took his small son Philip with him, and Philip sat and looked at magazines during his father's haircut. But at that time, the barber did not cut Philip's hair. Mrs. Lloyd always cut it at home.

Then, one day, Mr. Lloyd said to his wife, 'Philip's five now, and the barber is going to cut his hair next time.'

He took Philip there the next day, and first the barber cut Mr. Lloyd's hair. Then he put Philip in the chair and said, 'How do you want your hair, young man?'

'Like my father's,' answered Philip. 'With a hole in the middle.'

1. Did Philip's mother, or his father cut his hair at home?
2. Where did Mr. Lloyd sometimes take Philip?
3. What did he say to his wife then?
4. Did the barber cut Philip's hair first?
5. Did he put him in the chair?
6. What did he ask Philip then?
7. And what did Philip answer?
8. Did the barber make the hole in the middle of Mr. Lloyd's hair?

Word not in the 750: haircut



12

Ted Lawrence was an artist. He painted very modern pictures—blue squares and yellow circles, red sheep and green sky....

Last December, there was an exhibition of his pictures in our village hall for a week, and there was a big book on a table at the door. In it there were two questions:

'Why did you come to this exhibition?'

'Which of the pictures did you like?'

Every evening, Ted went to the book and read the visitors' answers.

The weather was not very good, and on the Saturday, it rained a lot. That evening Ted looked at the book at the door of the hall, and read one lady's answers to his two questions. They were:

'I did not like any of the pictures. I came into the exhibition because it began raining, and I didn't have an umbrella.'

1. Did Ted paint pictures?
2. What pictures did he paint?
3. What was there in the village hall last December?
4. Was there anything on the table at the door?
5. Were there any questions in the book?
6. What was the first one?
7. And what was the second?
8. What did one lady answer?

Words not in the 750: exhibition, modern, paint (v.)



13

Jeremy is a student at a university. He likes rock music very much. Last October he said to some of his friends, 'We're going to start a rock band, and we're going to play every evening in my parents' living-room. They aren't at home then, because they work at a hotel.'

Jeremy and his friends went to his house every evening and played their music, but they played very badly, and the neighbours always shouted, 'Stop that! Be quiet!' Then Jeremy closed the windows, and he and his friends played more music.

But last June, Jeremy opened a window, put his head out, listened and then said to his friends, 'We're playing better! The neighbours are shouting, "Turn that radio off!" now.'

1. Is Jeremy a student at a school, or at a university?
2. Does he like music?
3. What did he say to his friends last October?
4. Did they play well?
5. Did the neighbours enjoy their music?
6. What did the neighbours shout first?
7. And what did they shout last June?
8. What did Jeremy say then?

Words not in the 750: band, rock, start



14

Mr. White found work in a small town, and he and his wife sold their house in London and bought one in the new town. Mr. White went to work by bus every day with some of his new neighbours.

Last month he was on the bus, and one of his new neighbours was in front of him. Mr. White said to him, 'One of my teeth is hurting very badly. Is there a good dentist here?'

'You don't want a dentist,' answered the neighbour. 'One of my teeth hurt a lot yesterday too, but my wife put her arms round me and kissed me, and the tooth stopped hurting. Go and try that too.'

Mr. White stood up. 'Good,' he said happily. 'Where's your wife now?'

1. Did Mr. and Mrs. White go to a new town?
2. Did they buy a house there?
3. Did Mr. White go to work by car?
4. Did he go alone?
5. Who was in front of him on the bus?
6. What did Mr. White say to him?
7. What did the neighbour answer?
8. And what did Mr. White ask then?

Words not in the 750: kiss (v.), try (v.)



15

Lily was twelve years old, and her brother Tim was eight. Lily had a small dog. His name was Rover.

Lily liked cooking very much, and during the holiday, she made two beautiful, small cakes.

'We're going to eat them this afternoon,' she said to Tim. 'You're going to have one, and I'm going to have the other one.'

Their parents were not at home that afternoon, and at four o'clock Lily made some tea and put the cakes on the table.

'Where's Rover?' she said.

'He's under the table,' Tim answered.

They began their tea, but then Lily shouted, 'Tim, quick, I've dropped my cake under the table, and Rover's going to eat it!'

'It's all right, Lily,' Tim answered. 'I've put my foot on it.'

1. Did Lily make anything during the holidays?
2. What did she say to her brother?
3. Did she, or her brother make tea at four o'clock?
4. What did she ask Tim then?
5. Was Rover under the table?
6. Did the children begin their tea then?
7. What did Lily shout during their tea?
8. And what did Tim answer?



16

Dan was the doorman of a club in a big city. Every day, thousands of people passed his door, and a lot of them stopped and said to him, 'What's the time, please?'

After a few months, Dan said to himself, 'I'm not going to answer all those stupid people any more. I'm going to go to a shop and buy a big clock. Then I'm going to put it up on the wall here.' He bought a clock and put it up on the wall.

'Now people aren't going to stop and ask me the time,' he said happily. But after that, a lot of people stopped every day, looked at the clock and then said to Dan, 'Is that clock right?'

1. What work did Dan do?
2. Did many people stop at his door?
3. Did they ask Dan the time?
4. Was he happy about this?
5. What did he say to himself then?
6. And what did he do?
7. Did people stop and look at the clock?
8. And what did they say to Dan?

Words not in the 750: doorman, please



17

Larry was sixteen years old. He was a student, but he was not a very good one. He always sat at the back of the class, and he often went to sleep during lessons, because he stayed up late every night.

One of Larry's teachers was Miss Perry. One day Larry was asleep in her class, and she came and woke him up. 'You can go to sleep in my class, Larry,' she said to him, 'but please say, "Good night" to me first.'

Another day, Larry arrived at school very late in the morning, and Miss Perry said to him, 'Why are you late, Larry?'

'I didn't wake up at the right time this morning, Miss,' Larry answered.

'Oh,' Miss Perry said, 'do you sleep at home too?'

1. Was Larry a good student?
2. What did he often do during lessons?
3. Why did he do this?
4. Was Miss Perry a student too?
5. What did she say to Larry one day?
6. Was Larry late another morning?
7. Why was he late?
8. What did Miss Perry say to him then?

Words not in the 750: oh, please



18

Helen Smith liked Japanese food very much. One day she went to a Japanese restaurant and looked at the menu. She said to herself, 'The Japanese letters on this menu are very pretty,' and she wrote two of them on a piece of paper. Her hobby was sewing, and at home she sewed them on the front of her new blouse.

All her friends liked the blouse very much, but then a few days later, she went to the Japanese restaurant again. The Japanese people looked at her blouse, and then began smiling.

Helen said, 'Why are you smiling?' and one of the Japanese answered, 'Because the words on your blouse say: "young chicken".'

1. Did Helen like Japanese food?
2. And did she enjoy sewing?
3. What did she say to herself in the Japanese restaurant?
4. What did she do then?
5. Did her friends like it?
6. What did the Japanese people in the restaurant do?
7. What did she ask them?
8. What were the words on Helen's blouse?

Words not in the 750: menu, restaurant



19

Billy and Bobby were small boys. They were brothers, and they often had fights with each other.

Last Saturday their mother said to them, 'I'm going to cook our lunch now. Go out and play in the garden—and be good.'

'Yes, Mummy,' the two boys answered, and they went out.

They played in the garden for half an hour, and then their mother heard something. She said to herself, 'Someone's broken some glass.'

Then Billy ran into the kitchen. He was older than Bobby. 'Mummy,' he said, 'Bobby's broken a window in Mrs. Allen's house.' Mrs. Allen was one of their neighbours.

'He's a bad boy,' his mother said. 'How did he break it?'

'I threw a stone at him,' Billy answered, 'and he ducked.'

1. What did the boys' mother say to them last Saturday?
2. Did the boys play in the garden then?
3. Did their mother hear a noise?
4. What did she say to herself?
5. What did Billy say to his mother?
6. What did his mother say then?
7. And what did Billy answer?
8. Did Bobby, or Billy break the window?

Words not in the 750: Mummy, hear/heard, duck (v.)



20

Mr. and Mrs. Miller came to London and bought a very old house there. Then Mrs. Miller's old friend, Mrs. Yates, came and visited her. Mrs. Yates went around the house with Mrs. Miller, and she was surprised, because there were bells on the walls of every room.

She said to Mrs. Miller, 'Why have you got all those bells in your house, Gladys?'

Mrs. Miller answered, 'Fifty years ago, ladies and gentlemen had servants. The ladies and gentlemen rang the bells in the rooms, and then the servants came up from the kitchen. But now everything's different. I work in the kitchen, and I sometimes ring the bells in the rooms. Then my husband, or my children come down and help me.'

1. Did Mr. and Mrs. Miller buy an old, or a new house?
2. Did anyone visit Mrs. Miller there?
3. Why was Mrs. Yates surprised?
4. What did she say to Mrs. Miller?
5. What did ladies and gentlemen do fifty years ago?
6. Did the servants come then?
7. Did Mrs. Miller sometimes ring the bells?
8. And what did her husband, or the children do then?

Words not in the 750: help (v.), surprised (a.)



21

Mrs. Andrews said to her husband, 'There's going to be a big dance at the club on Saturday, and all the other women are going to have new dresses. I want a new one too.'

But her husband answered, 'No, I'm not going to buy you a new dress.'

Then Mrs. Andrews went to a shop, bought a beautiful dress, and put it on her husband's account, but she did not say anything about it to him.

She wore the dress at the dance, and everyone said, 'That's a beautiful dress!'

At midnight, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews went home, and Mr. Andrews said to his wife, 'You were as pretty in your old dress as the other women were in their new ones.'

1. What did Mrs. Andrews say to her husband?
2. And what did he answer?
3. Did Mrs. Andrews go to a shop then?
4. And did she buy anything there?
5. Did she give any money for it?
6. And did she say anything about it to her husband?
7. What did everyone say about her dress at the dance?
8. And what did Mr. Andrews say to his wife after the dance?

Word not in the 750: account (n.)



22

Mr. Walker had one son. His name was Harry, and he was twelve years old. Mr. Walker went to work by car every day, and he took Harry with him to his school.

Harry wanted a bicycle very much. 'A lot of my friends ride to school on their bicycles,' he said to his father.

A few days ago, Mr. Walker stopped his car at a red light, and then he said to Harry, 'I'm going to give you a bicycle next month, Harry. But first I'm going to ask you some questions. Now, do you know the meaning of these traffic lights?'

'Yes, I do,' Harry answered quickly. 'Red is "Stop", green is "Go", and yellow is "Go very fast"!'

1. Was Harry a boy, or a man?
2. Did his father have a car?
3. Did Harry have a bicycle?
4. Did he want one?
5. What did he say to his father?
6. Where did Mr. Walker stop his car?
7. What did he ask Harry then?
8. And what did Harry answer?

Words not in the 750: know, meaning(n.), traffic(n.)



Mr. Williams went to India for a few months, and he grew a moustache and a beard there. Then he came back to England, and he and his wife had a holiday in a hotel by the sea.

After the first day, his wife said to him, 'I don't like your beard, Ted.' He shaved it off, but he did not shave his moustache off.

Then the next morning he said to himself, 'Now I don't like my moustache.' He shaved that off too.

Then he and his wife went down to breakfast, and all of the people at the other tables looked at them and began whispering to each other. Everybody said, 'That woman always comes down to breakfast with a different man each morning!'

1. Did Mr. Williams go to Africa, or to India?
2. Did he grow a moustache, or a beard?
3. Did he go to a hotel alone during his holiday?
4. Did his wife like his beard?
5. What did her husband do then?
6. What did he say to himself the next morning?
7. And what did he do?
8. What did everybody whisper at breakfast time?

Words not in the 750: grow/grew, shave(v), whisper (v.)



Edward Lake was twenty. He visited the manager of a bank, because he wanted work there. The manager's name was Thompson.

Mr. Thompson said to Edward, 'Where did you work before?'

Edward answered, 'I was in an office in London.'

'For how long?' the manager asked.

'For a year and a half,' Edward answered.

'Which office?' the manager asked then.

Edward gave him the name, and Mr. Thompson telephoned the manager there. 'How long did Edward Lake work for you?' Mr. Thompson asked.

'About a week,' the other manager answered.

'But he said, "I was there for a year and a half"!'

'Yes, that's correct,' was the answer. 'He was with us for a year and a half, but he only *worked* for a week during that time.'

1. Did Edward visit Mr. Thompson because he wanted money?
2. What did Mr. Thompson ask him first?
3. What was Mr. Thompson's second question?
4. And what was his third question?
5. What did Mr. Thompson ask the manager of the office in London?
6. And what did the manager answer?
7. What did Mr. Thompson say then?
8. And what did the other manager answer?

Word not in the 750: manager



Annie and Julie were twins, and they were ten years old. They liked nice clothes very much, and they always wanted the same ones.

Last week their mother said, 'Today I'm going to buy you some new dresses,' and the girls were very happy. Their mother took them to a shop in town and said to them, 'What colour do you want this time?'

'Blue!' both of them answered together, and then they all laughed.

A woman brought them some pretty blue dresses, and the twins put them on.

The woman said to them, 'There's a mirror on that wall. Look at yourselves in it.'

Their mother laughed again and said, 'They don't need a mirror. They always look at *each other* in their new clothes.'

1. Did the twins like nice clothes?
2. Did they always want different ones?
3. What did their mother say to them last week?
4. Did she take them to a shop in town then?
5. Did they both want red dresses?
6. Did a woman bring them some then?
7. What did the woman say?
8. And what did the twins' mother say then?

Words not in the 750: mirror, need(v.), twin



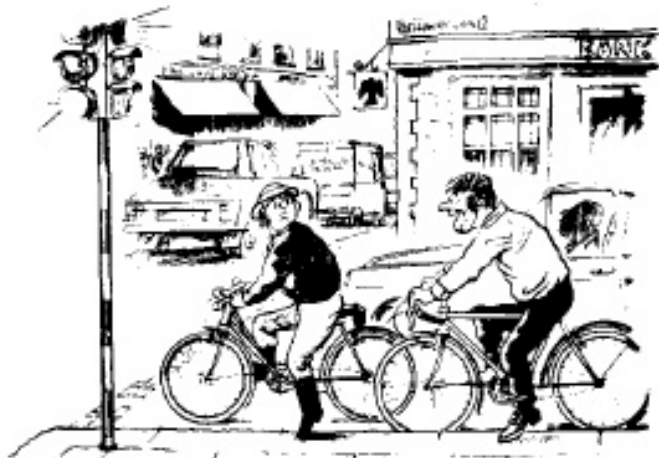
Two old men were friends. They had no work last Thursday and they went out for a walk. But it was cold and wet in the streets, and after a quarter of an hour, they went into a big shop. It sold cheap, second-hand things. Each of the old men said to himself, 'My friend's going to buy something. He wants something in here,' but both of them were in the shop because it was warm and dry.

They walked around for another quarter of an hour and looked at a lot of things, and then each of them said to himself, 'He doesn't want anything. He's like me.'

Then one of them said, 'We aren't going to buy anything, are we? Come and look at some more beautiful things in the expensive shops.'

1. Did the old men go for a walk together last Thursday?
2. Was the weather good?
3. What did the old men do after a quarter of an hour?
4. Did the shop sell expensive things?
5. What did each of the old men say to himself first?
6. Did they look at anything in the shop?
7. What did each of them say to himself after that?
8. And what did one of them say to the other then?

Word not in the 750: second-hand



27

Mrs. Holland lives in a big city and she works in a shop. She went there by car every morning for twenty years. Then she was forty-five years old, and she said to herself, 'I'm fat and soft now, because I go everywhere by car. I'm going to buy a bicycle.'

She bought one, and after that, she always went to her shop on that, and not in her car. Sometimes all the cars stopped at a red light, and she went quickly past them to the front, because her bicycle was narrow. Then she was happy.

Yesterday she stopped at a red light, and a man came up behind her on another bicycle. He stopped too and said, 'Have the police taken *your* driving licence away too?'

1. Does Mrs. Holland work in an office?
2. What did she say to herself after twenty years?
3. Did she buy anything then?
4. Did she go to her shop on it?
5. Where did she stop one day?
6. Who came up behind her then?
7. Did he stop too?
8. And what did he say to Mrs. Holland?

Words not in the 750: driving licence, police



28

Jim was sixteen. He left school, but he did not find any work for a long time. Then he began selling brushes to ladies in their houses. He went to the front doors of the houses and knocked at them, or rang the bell. Then the lady came to the door, and Jim said, 'I've got some beautiful brushes here.' Some ladies did not want any brushes, but others bought some from him.

Last Monday he came to the front door of one house and rang the bell. A big dog came round the corner. It was angry, and Jim was afraid.

Then a lady came to the door and shouted at Jim, 'Stop attacking my poor dog! Take your leg out of its mouth!'

1. Did Jim find work easily?
2. What did he say to ladies?
3. Did all of them buy his brushes?
4. What did Jim do last Monday?
5. What came round the corner of the house?
6. Were the dog and Jim happy?
7. Did a man open the door then?
8. What did the lady shout at Jim?



An English film director made a film in a small village in India. The weather was very important for making the film, and the director always listened to the weather forecasts on the radio. But then every morning, an old Indian said to the director, 'It's going to rain today,' or 'The sun's going to shine today,' or 'It's going to be cloudy,' and he was always right.

Then the film director stopped listening to the radio and asked the old man about the weather every morning. But one morning, the old man was not happy and did not speak to the film director.

'Look,' the film director said kindly, 'what's wrong? Are you ill? We've got a doctor here.'

The Indian answered, 'Radio. Broken.'

1. Was the film director Indian, or English?
2. What did he listen to on the radio?
3. Why did he stop doing it?
4. How was the old Indian one morning?
5. Did he speak to the film director?
6. What did the director say to him then?
7. Was the old Indian ill?
8. What did the old Indian answer?

Words not in the 750: director, forecast (n.), important



Tom is twelve. Last Saturday, his uncle David visited him and his parents. He arrived at eleven; and at half past twelve, they had their lunch. They had meat, and then oranges and apples.

Then Tom's mother said to Uncle David, 'You like cheese very much, David, but the box is empty. I'm sorry.' Then she took the dirty plates out to the kitchen.

Tom went out of the dining-room quietly and came back after a minute with a piece of cheese. He gave it to Uncle David, and Uncle David was happy. He put the piece of cheese in his mouth and then said, 'You've got very good eyes, Tom. Where did you find this nice cheese?'

The boy answered, 'In the rat-trap, Uncle David.'

1. Did Tom's uncle visit him and his parents last Saturday?
2. Did they all have lunch together?
3. What did Tom's mother say after lunch?
4. Did she go to the kitchen then?
5. And did Tom go out of the room too?
6. What did he bring his uncle then?
7. And what did his uncle say?
8. What was Tom's answer?

Words not in the 750: sorry, trap (n.)



31

Mr. James Richards lived in a flat. At midnight last Friday, he was asleep, but then he woke up, because there was a lot of noise. 'Someone's knocking at a door,' Mr. Richards said to himself. He went into his living-room, but the noise was not at his door.

The person knocked for a long time, and then Mr. Richards opened his door. A man with a telegram was at the door of the next flat. Mr. Richards went and knocked at the door hard, and they made a lot of noise.

Then Mr. Richards's neighbour came to the door. She was a lady. The man gave her the telegram and said, 'A telegram for Mr. James Richards.'

The lady was not happy!

1. What woke Mr. Richards?
2. What did he say to himself?
3. Did he go into his living-room then?
4. And did he go out of his flat?
5. Did he knock at his neighbour's door too?
6. What did the man give Mr. Richards's neighbour?
7. And what did he say to her?
8. Was she happy then?

Words not in the 750: flat (n.), noise, telegram



32

Mr. Wall is the manager of a big bank. Last Thursday afternoon, Mr. Nelson came to Mr. Wall's office in the bank and talked to him for a long time. Then Mr. Wall looked at his watch and said, 'Look at the time! The bank closed a quarter of an hour ago! They've locked all the doors now, and there are three of them between us and the street. But I've got keys, because I sometimes work late here after everyone else.' He took some keys out of his pocket.

Mr. Wall and his visitor went out of his office, and then they saw Mrs. Field. She cleaned the bank every evening after 5.30. 'Go out through the back door,' she said to the manager. 'They never lock that one.'

1. What was Mr. Wall?
2. Did anyone visit him last Friday afternoon?
3. What did Mr. Wall say to the visitor then?
4. Did he take some keys out of his pocket?
5. And did Mr. Wall and his visitor go out of the office?
6. Did they see anyone then?
7. What work did Mrs. Field do in the bank?
8. What did she say to Mr. Wall?

Word not in the 750: manager



33

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan lived in Weymouth. Mr. Bryan worked in a bank there, and Mrs. Bryan always bought her meat from a butcher near the bank. The meat in that shop was always very good.

Then the bank sent Mr. Bryan to Penzance. He bought a house there, and Mrs. Bryan began looking for a new butcher. There was one near her house, and she went into his shop and found a nice piece of meat.

'I want two kilos of that,' she said to the butcher, and he began cutting it, but Mrs. Bryan said, 'You're giving me a lot of bone in that.'

'No, I'm not,' the butcher answered. 'I'm not *giving* it to you. You're going to *pay* for it.'

1. Did Mrs. Bryan buy good meat in Weymouth?
2. Did she go to Penzance alone, or with her husband?
3. Did she find a butcher there?
4. Was there any nice meat in his shop?
5. What did she say to the new butcher?
6. What did he do then?
7. What did Mrs. Bryan say to him?
8. And what did he answer?

Words not in the 750: bone, butcher, pay (v.)



34

Mr. and Mrs. Perry had four children. One evening, Mrs. Perry went out, and Mr. Perry stayed at home with the children. They were upstairs in their bedrooms. Mr. Perry read his newspaper for half an hour, and then he heard someone on the stairs.

'Go up to your bedroom and stay there!' he shouted.

A few minutes later, he again heard someone on the stairs.

'Go upstairs, or I'm going to come and spank you!' he said angrily.

This happened again, and then someone knocked at the front door. Mr. Perry went to it. One of his neighbours was there.

'Is my small son here?' he said to Mr. Perry.

'Yes, I'm here,' someone answered from upstairs, 'but Mr. Perry always stops me going home.'

1. Was Mrs. Perry at home that evening?
2. Were her children at home?
3. Did Mr. Perry hear anyone on the stairs?
4. What did he shout then?
5. What did he say a few minutes later?
6. Did anyone come to the front door then?
7. What did he say?
8. And what did his son say?

Words not in the 750: happen, hear/heard, spank



35

Professor Carter visited some friends on the other side of town. After a good dinner and a game of cards, he said, 'I'm going to walk home now.'

But his hostess looked out of the window and said, 'The weather's very bad. It's cold and wet and windy. Please stay here tonight.' She went and made him a bed.

After a few minutes, she came back to the living-room, but the professor was not there. She and her husband waited for half an hour, and then they went to bed. But then the professor knocked at the back door of the house. He was very wet. His host came to the door. 'You're here!' he said happily.

'Yes,' the professor answered. He smiled and said, 'I went home and got my pyjamas.'

1. Did Professor Carter have dinner at his friends' house?
2. What did he say after the game of cards?
3. And what did his hostess answer?
4. Did she go and make Professor Carter a bed then?
5. Where did she go after that?
6. Was the professor there?
7. Where did the professor go?
8. Did he get his pyjamas from there?

Words not in the TSO: please, professor, pyjamas



36

Max Hollingsworth had a holiday in Mexico. He did not speak any Spanish. On the first morning he sat down at his table in the dining-room of his hotel, and another man said, 'Buenos dias,' and bowed.

Max said to himself, 'That's his name.' He bowed too and said, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

The next morning, the same man bowed again and said, 'Buenos dias,' and again Max answered, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

The waiter spoke a little English, and after breakfast he said to Max, 'Buenos dias' isn't that guest's name. It's 'Good morning' in Spanish.'

The next morning, Max bowed and said to the Mexican gentleman, 'Buenos dias.'

The Mexican looked up, smiled happily, because Max spoke some Spanish now, and answered, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

1. What did the Mexican gentleman say to Max?
2. Did he bow?
3. What did Max say to himself then?
4. Did he say his name?
5. What did the waiter say to Max after breakfast?
6. Did Max say, 'Buenos dias' to the Mexican gentleman the next morning?
7. What did the Mexican gentleman answer?
8. Was he happy?

Words not in the TSO: bow (v.), waiter

37



Joe was nineteen. He had long hair, and he never washed or brushed it. He wore black clothes, and his nails were always black too. He did not like work, and he was often absent.

Last Monday he said to himself, 'I'm not going to go to work this week. I'm going to get a certificate from my doctor, and then I'm going to stay at home, but I'm going to get my money.'

He went to the doctor and said to him rudely, 'I'm not well. What are you going to do about it?'

The doctor looked at him for a few seconds. Then he said, 'Here. Take this three times a day. With Water.'

'What is it?' Joe asked.

'Soap,' answered the doctor.

1. Was Joe's hair long, or short?
2. Was it clean, or dirty?
3. Were his nails clean?
4. What did he say to the doctor?
5. Did the doctor look at him then?
6. And what did he say after that?
7. What did Joe ask?
8. And what did the doctor answer?

Words not in the 750: certificate, nail (n.), rudely

38



George worked in an office, and he liked walking very much. He always said, 'Sitting on a chair for eight hours every day, and then sitting at home in the evening, is very bad.'

Every summer, he had a holiday, and he went somewhere by train and then walked every day for five or six hours.

Last spring he took a map to a friend's house and said, 'You've been to Switzerland and walked in the Alps, Fred. I'm going to go there in August, and I'm going to walk from here to here on Saturday and Sunday in the first week.' He put his finger on two places on the map.

'Wait a minute, George,' Fred answered. 'In two days? But your map's flat, and those mountains aren't!'

1. Did George like walking?
2. What did he always say?
3. Did he have a holiday every winter?
4. Did he walk much during his holiday?
5. What did he do last spring?
6. What did he say to his friend Fred?
7. Did he put his finger on the places on the map?
8. And what did Fred answer?

Words not in the 750: flat (a.), place (n.)



39

Mrs. Jones was on a bus with her son, Peter. He said, 'Look! there's a puppy on the bus. I want it.'

Mrs. Jones said, 'No, Peter, it belongs to someone.'

'No,' the bus driver said. 'I'm taking it to the Dog Hospital. They're going to destroy it.'

Peter again said, 'I want it!' and his mother answered, 'Take it home.'

That evening, she was on the same bus. There was another puppy there. It was like the first, and another boy wanted it. His mother said, 'No, it belongs to someone,' but the driver said, 'No.'

Mrs. Jones said to him, 'Do you often take puppies to the Dog Hospital?'

He answered, 'My dog had six puppies last week, and I'm looking for homes for them.'

1. Was there a puppy on the bus?
2. What did Peter say about it?
3. What did his mother answer?
4. What did the bus driver say then?
5. Did Mrs. Jones get on the same bus that evening?
6. And was the same puppy on it too?
7. What did Mrs. Jones ask the bus driver then?
8. And what did he answer?

Words not in the 750: destroy, driver, puppy



40

Frances Hay was seventy years old. She liked hats very much, and she always bought a new one every spring.

Last April she said to herself, 'I'm going to go to town today, and I'm going to buy myself a nice, new hat.' She went into town by bus and went into a hat shop. Then she said to one of the young sales ladies, 'I want a nice hat, please.'

The sales lady brought her a lot of hats, and Mrs. Hay put them all on one after another. Then after half an hour, she said, 'Yes, this one is good. Please send it to my address.' She gave the sales lady a card.

'Yes, madam,' the sales lady answered, 'but this is *your* hat. You came into the shop with it.'

1. Was Frances Hay old, or young?
2. Did she like hats?
3. Did she buy one every year?
4. What did she say to the saleslady in a hat shop?
5. What did the saleslady bring her then?
6. Did Mrs. Hay put them all on?
7. What did she say to the saleslady after half an hour?
8. And what did the saleslady answer?

Words not in the 750: madam, please, sales lady

APPENDIX

A 750-Word Vocabulary

Note: This vocabulary does not contain numerals, names of the days of the week, names of the months or proper nouns and adjectives. Not all cases of nouns and pronouns are given (e.g. *boy* stands for *boy-boy's-boys-boys'*; *I* stands for *I-me-my-mine*); nor are all parts of verbs given (e.g. *swim* stands for *swim-swims-swam-swum*

—*swimming*). Comparatives and superlatives of adjectives and adverbs are also not given.

The abbreviation a. means adjective and/or adverb; n. means noun; and v. means verb.

Words outside this list are printed at the bottom of the pages on which they are used—for example, *advertisement* on page 4.

a(n)	around
about	arrive
above	artist
absent (a.)	as
across	ask
address (n.)	asleep
aeroplane	at
afraid	attack
after	aunt
afternoon	autumn
again	awake
against	away
ago	
air [force]	
[hostess]	baby
[port]	back (a.)
all	back (n.)
almost	bad (worse, worst)
alone	bag
along	ball
always	balloon
a.m.	banana
among	bank
and	bar
angry	barber
animal	basin
answer	basket
any	bath
apple	bathe
arm	be
army	beach

bear (a.)	bottom
beard	bowl (n.)
beat (v.)	box (n.)
beautiful	boy
because	brave
bed	bread
before	break
begin(ning)	breakfast
behind	bridge
bell	bright
belong	bring
belt	broken
bench	brother
between	brown
bicycle	brush
big	bucket
bird	bunch
black	burst
blackboard	bus
blanket	bush
blouse	but
blue	butter
boat	button
body (and -body, e.g. in anybody)	buy
bomb	by
book	
boot	cage
born	cake
both	camera
bottle	camp

can (v.)	can (n.)
cap	cap
captain	car
card	card
carpet	carriage
cart	cat
catch	ceiling
chair	chalk
cheap	cheese
chicken	child
chimney	cinema
cigarette	circle
cinema	different
city	difficult
class	dining(-room/-hall)
clean	dinner
clerk	dirty
clever	dish
climate	do
climb	doctor/Dr
clock	dog
close (v.)	donkey
clothes	door
cloud[y]	double
club	down
coat	draw
coffee	dream
cold	dress
collar	drink
colour	drive
comb	drop (n.)
come	dry
cook	duck
cool	during
corner	dust[y]
correct	duster
cost	
cotton	each
cough	ear
count (v.)	early
country	east
cow	easy
cross (n.)	

eat	egg
electric[ity]	elephant
else	empty
end	enemy
engine	enjoy
equal	evening
evening	ever
every	examination
except	exercise
expensive	eye
face	factory
fall	family
far	fast
fat	father
few	field
fight	film
find	fine (a.)
finish	fire
first	fish[erman]
flag	floor
flower	fly (n.)
fly (n.)	fly (v.)
follow	food
foot[ball]	for
foreign	fork
forward	

free	friend
from	front
full	funny
furniture	
game	garage
garden	gas
gate	gentleman
get	girl
give	glass
glue	go
goal	good (better, best)
goodbye	gramophone
grand- (e.g. in grandfather)	green
grey	ground
group	guest
gun	
hair	half
hall	hammer
hand	handkerchief
happy	hard
hat	hate
have	he
head	headmaster/
heavy	here

hide (v.)	ladder	meal	nil	policeman	save	sometimes	telephone
high	lady	measure	no	pool (e.g. swimming-pool)	say	son	tennis
history	lake	meat	none	poor	school	song	tent
hit	lamp	meet	north	port	score	south	than
hobby	land	mend	nose	post(card)	sea	speak	that/those
hold	language	metre	not	pot	seat	spoon[ful]	the
hole	last	midday	now	pound	second (n.)	spring (n.)	theatre
holiday	late	middle	number	prefer	see	square	then
home[work]	laugh	midnight	nurse	present (a.)	seldom	stairs (also -stairs, e.g. in upstairs)	there
hook	lavatory	milk		pretty	-self/selves	stamp	they
horse	lazy	minute (n.)		pull	sell	stand	thick
hospital	leaf	Miss	o'clock	pupil	send	star	thief
host(ess)	leave	miss (n.)	of	push	servant	station	thing (also -thing, e.g. in nothing)
hot	left	mistake	off	put	several	stay	thirsty
hotel	leg	mistress	office		saw	steal	this/these
hour	less	model	officer		shallow	stick (n.)	through
house	lesson	money	often	quarter	shape	stocking	throw
how	letter	monkey	old	quick	she	stone	ticket
hungry	lid	month	on	quiet	sheep	stop	tie
hurt	lie (v.)	moon	once	quite	sheet	storm[ly]	tiger
husband	light (a.)	more	one (and -one e.g. is anyone)		shelf	stove	time
	light (n. and v.)	morning	open		shine	straight	tin
	like (a.)	most	or	radio	ship	street	tired
I	like (v.)	mother	orange	rain[ly]	shirt	string	to
ice-cream	line	mountain	other	rat	shoe	strong	today
ill	lion	mouse	out	rather	shoot	student	together
in(to)	listen	moustache	over	reach	shop	study	tomorrow
ink	little	mouth		read	short	stupid	tonight
iron	live (v.)	Mr(s)		red	shout	such	too
island	living-room	much		rich	side	sugar	tooth
it	loaf	mud(dy)	page	ride	since	sum	top
	lock(ed)	music	paper	right	sing[er]	summer	towards
	long (a. and v.)		parcel	ring (n.)	sister	sun[ny]	towel
jam	look		parent	ring (v.)	sit	sweep	tower
jar	lose	nail	pass	river	size	sweet	town
journey	lot	name	passenger	road	skirt	swim	toy
jug	loud	narrow	past	roof	sky	sword	train (n.)
jump	love	nasty	pen	room	sleep[ly]		tree
	luggage	near	pencil	rope	slice		trip
	lump	needle	penny	round	slow	table	trousers
key	lunch	neighbour	people	row (n.)	small	tail	truck
kick		neither	photograph	rubber	smile	take	turn
kill		nephew	picnic	rug	smoke	talk	twice
kilo(gram)	magazine	net	picture	ruler	snake	tail	type (n.)
kilometre	make	never	piece	run	snow	tank	typist
kind (a.)	man	new	pillow		soap	tap	
kitchen	many	newspaper	plate		sock	tea	
kite	map	next	play[ground]	sail	soft	teacher[er]	ugly
knife	marbles	nice	p.m.	salt	soldier	team	umbrella
knock	mat	niece	pocket	same	some		
	match	night					

uncle	wall	when	wood
under	want	where (also	word
university	warm	-where, e.g. in	work
up	wash	nowhere)	world
usually	watch (n.)	which	write
	water	white	wrong
	way	who	
van	we	why	
voyage	weak	wide	
very	wear	wife	year
village	weather	win	yellow
visit[or]	week	wind[y]	yes
volley-ball	weigh	window	yesterday
	well (a.)	winter	you
	west	wipe	young
wait	wet	wire	
wake	what	with[out]	
walk[ing-stick]	wheel	woman	zoo